which modification, one or more of the following additional modifications are optionally made:

(i) substitution of Ile_{96} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(ii) substitution of His_{95} by D-His or an N-alkyl derivative of His or D-His, or by Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe, or Tyr, an N-alkyl derivative of Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe or Tyr, or a D-form of Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe or Tyr;

(iii) substitution of Ala_{92} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(iv) substitution of Val_{91} by Ala or Gly;

(v) substitution of Thr_{90} by Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Ala, Val or Pro; and

(vi) substitution of Val_{89} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

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(C) a peptide obtained by elongation of (A) or (B) at the N- and/or C-terminal, but not including an entire protein; or

(D) an amide of the C-terminal of (A), (B), or (C), and/or an N-acyl derivative of (A), (B), or (C).

15 (New). An isolated peptide capable of inhibiting *in vitro* the enzymatic activity of human Leukocyte Elastase (hLE) and/or of human Cathepsin G (hCG), said peptide being

(A) a core peptide identical to positions 89-96 of the sequence of human C-reactive protein (CRP) of the formula:

Val_{89}-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile_{96} (SEQ ID NO:3);

(B) a modification of (A) in which His_{95} is substituted by Asp, Glu, Ser, Phe or Tyr, an N-alkyl derivative of His, Thr, Asp, Glu, Ser, Phe or Tyr, or a D-form of His, Thr, Asp, Glu, Ser, Phe or Tyr, and, in which modification, one or more of the following additional modifications are optionally made:

(i) substitution of Ile_{96} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(ii) substitution of Val_{94} by Ala, His or Phe, or a D-form of Val, Ala, His or Phe;

(iii) substitution of Ala_{92} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(iv) substitution of Val_{91} by Ala or Gly;

(v) substitution of Thr_{90} by Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Ala, Val or Pro; and

(vi) substitution of Val_{89} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(C) a peptide obtained by elongation of (A) or (B) at the N- and/or C-terminal, but not including an entire protein; or

(D) an amide of the C-terminal of (A), (B), or (C), and/or an N-acyl derivative of (A), (B), or (C).

Please amend claims 2-9, and 12-13 as follows:

2 (Amended). A peptide according to claim 14, wherein the hydrophobic amino acid residue is selected from the

group of residues consisting of Leu, Ile, Val, Phe, Tyr, Nle and Nva.

3 (Amended). A peptide according to claim 14(C), wherein the peptide is elongated by additional amino acid residues at the N-terminal.

4 (Amended). A peptide according to claim 3, wherein the additional amino acid residues constitute sequences of the human CRP.

5 (Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 14(D), wherein acyl is a radical R-X-CO-, wherein R is substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl and X is a covalent bond, O, NH, or NHCO.

6 (Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 5, wherein R is optionally substituted alkanoyl or aroyl.

7 (Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 6, wherein the acyl radical is selected from octanoyl, monomethoxysuccinyl, carbobenzoxy (benzyl-O-CO-), acetylaminocaproyl, Fmoc (fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl), naphthyl-NH-CO- and adamantyl-NH-CO.

8 (Twice Amended). A peptide according to claim 14, selected from the group of sequences consisting of:

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (residues 89-96 of SEQ ID NO:3)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-(D)His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-(D)Val-His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-(D)Val-(D)His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-Ser-Ile (SEQ ID NO:8)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-Phe-Ile (SEQ ID NO:9)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:13)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:10)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Phe-His-Ile-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:11)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-Pro-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:12)

MeOSuc-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

MeOSuc-Phe-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:14)

Octanoyl-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

Acetylaminocaproyl-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

AdamantylNH-CO-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

α-Naphthyl-NH-CO-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

CBz-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

CBz-Phe-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:14)

Fmoc-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

wherein CBz is carbobenzoxy, MeOSuc is monomethoxysuccinyl and Fmoc is 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl.

9 (Amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a CRP-derived peptide according to claim 14, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12 (Amended). A method for the treatment of a chronic inflammatory condition which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a peptide according to claim 14.

13 (Amended). A method according to claim 12, wherein the chronic inflammatory condition is rheumatoid arthritis, pulmonary emphysema or cystic fibrosis.

Please add new claims 16-24 as follows:

16 (New). A peptide according to claim 15, wherein the hydrophobic amino acid residue is selected from the group of residues consisting of Leu, Ile, Val, Phe, Tyr, Nle and Nva.

17 (New). A peptide according to claim 15(C), wherein the peptide is elongated by additional amino acid residues at the N-terminal.

18 (New). A peptide according to claim 17, wherein the additional amino acid residues constitute sequences of the human CRP.

19 (New). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 15(D), wherein acyl is a radical R-X-CO-, wherein R is